

READING and WRITING in the

DARIK

A space for avid Black readers and Black authors

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NEWSLETTER

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A WRITER!

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Puzzle is about everything
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News and Information about Completed and Upcoming Projects and MORE!



READING and WRITING in the DARK

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READING and WRITING in the DARK Newsletter
Vol. 2 No. 3
MARCH 2023

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NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME BACK!

Greetings everyone! Welcome to the March edition of my Reading & Writing in the Dark newsletter. Thank you for subscribing! Well, this is a very exciting month for me. I will be releasing my second novel *And What of the Cargo?*

Taking this novel *Cargo* from idea to reality has been a very different experience from writing my debut novel *MELANIN*. The writing process was the same as far as my dedication to working on it daily until I'd completed it. But I haven't found the editorial process quite as grueling, and I don't have the same pressures around meeting my deadline that I did with *MELANIN*. Sure, there are always things that are going to give pause, or create a bit of anxiety, but I think that with *Cargo*, I'm taking it more in stride. (Like many parents with their second child, I am more relaxed and have more experience under my belt with my second novel *Cargo*.)

And What of the CARGO? is a shorter book than *MELANIN*, but it is still full of ideas and concepts as well as perspectives on things that you may or may not have considered. Initially, I thought of it as my first foray into the horror/suspense genre, but after completing it, I had to ask myself: Is *Cargo* actually a horror novel? (You can find my thoughts about this question--and lots of other goodies--in the January 2023 edition of the Reading & Writing in the Dark newsletter. I thought the question was so relevant to the overall story that I decided to use it as the forward of the novel.)

You can start reading *And What of the CARGO?* on March 17th which is only a little more than two weeks from the publication of the newsletter you are reading now. I'm anxious for you to read it and to hear your feedback! If you have not already, make sure to pre-order YOUR copy of *Cargo* now so that it will be ready and waiting for you on your device/s as soon as it is available.

The pre-order SALE is on right now at Amazon for only \$3.99. The price goes up to \$9.99 for the Kindle version after the date of release. The hard cover and paperback editions will be available soon afterward.

I think you'll enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.



AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER!

And What of the CARGO?

Pre-Order now by clicking the cover to the right
or
by clicking on the logo below.



ON THE 17th of this month, the WAIT WILL BE OVER!

"Kylah Mbaye of the Zahnoka people, lay as silently and still as she could, halfheartedly petitioning the ancestors that at least for one night she would not be spirited away and taken above deck to endure yet another in a procession of endless rapes. Another woman would have long ago given in to despair--but Kylah--in the face of such crushing odds against her and her people within the bowels of this floating nightmare, knew that eventually, this voyage would not end well... for her captors." And so it began. *AND WHAT OF THE CARGO?* is a tale of love and hate, tears and triumph, suspense and horror that leads to an unimaginable conclusion.

"The Atlantic crossing, or "Middle Passage," as it was called by European slavers, was notorious for the number of deaths incurred, averaging in the vicinity of 15-20%"

— Walter Rodney. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*

Much is rightly said and written about the enslavement and fates of Afrikans who were kidnapped from their homeland and transported to the Americas and other lands along the Middle Passage. Absent however is an expanded examination of the fate of those who did not make it through the journey. Whether victims of an inability to survive the unimaginable environment in which they were forced to occupy, or due to murders while attempting to revolt, or by simply jumping overboard, choosing death as a better alternative to chattel enslavement.

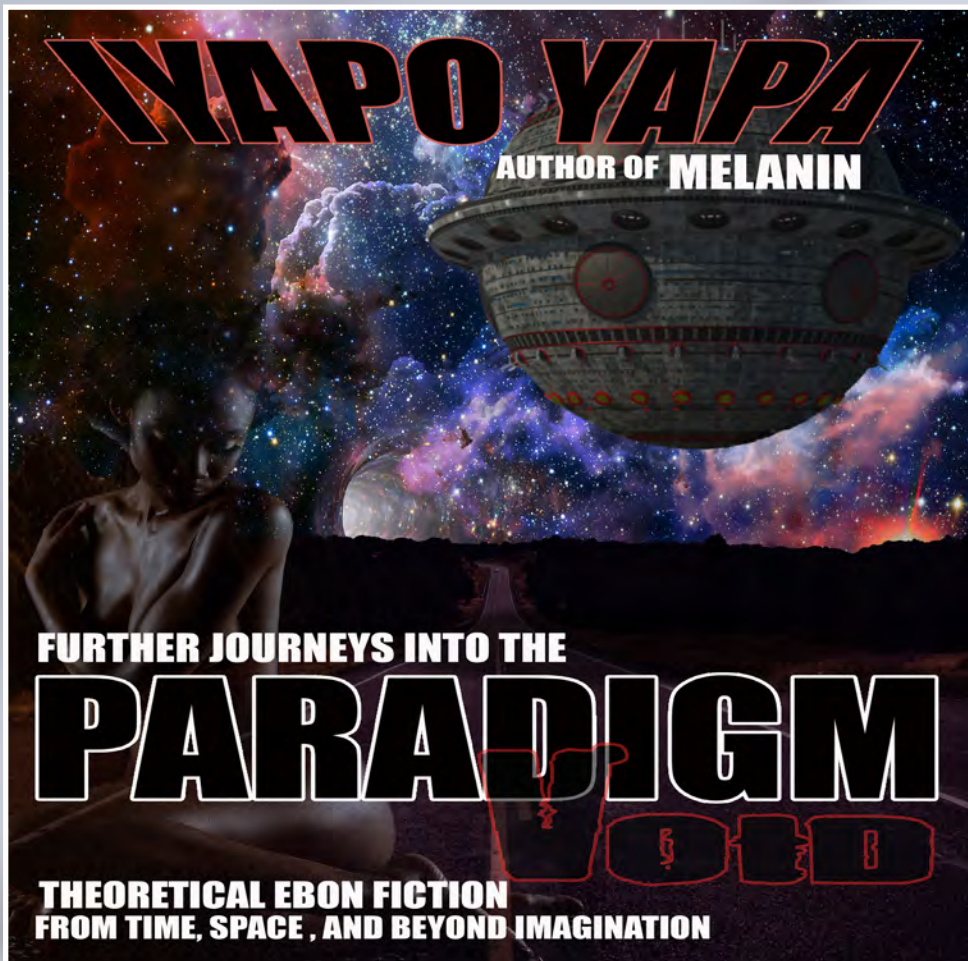
What of those ancestors in the depths of the oceans, and what of their souls and spirits. Or to put it bluntly--what of the *CARGO?*

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FURTHER JOURNEYS INTO THE PARADIGM VOID!



I've completed the my first book of short stories: Paradigm VOID.

Being a fan of The Twilight Zone, The Outer Limits and other anthology series on television, I've always liked the short format in which a story is told beginning to end and is self contained. I also liked knowing that the story the following week would be something completely different. There is something very appealing to me about a format, whether performed or written, in which I can see a variety of stories, each one within the same genre, but with different concepts, characters, executions and outcomes.

One of the most brilliant series I've ever seen was one called Tales from the Loop. It was an anthology series that at an overarching theme that tied all of it together. It was extremely well done! (I do have one MAJOR issue with the series that absolutely ruined the whole series for me. I will have to tell you about that one day. Still, I would recommend it).

When it comes to short stories, candidly, I was shocked when I found out how many people say they aren't particularly into the short story format, though they do enjoy a good novella. I have heard different reasons for it,

and they are as individual as the person. I have a hard time relating because I LOVE the short story format, both for reading and writing.

All that said, I'm busy working on editing (into a book) and following-up my first short story collection Paradigm VOID.

(I want so much to call it an anthology, but according to the most strict definition of anthology it doesn't qualify. Just fyi, an anthology is most often a collection of short stories by various authors; a collection is typically the same thing, but by only a single author. At least, as I said, that is the STRICTEST definition, though I have seen it defined as a collection of short stories by a single author. So I guess it boils down to whether one is trying to be a purist...)

"...I was shocked when I found out how many people say they aren't particularly into the short story format..."

I digress.

My goal is to put out ten short Paradigm VOID stories per year under the "Keepin' it a BUCK" Series. (This will be separate from Tales of the Monkey's Paw in the Keepin' it a BUCK horror/suspense series.) So, after the ten Paradigm VOID stories are completed for the year, they will be compiled into a single volume that will contain an eleventh, BONUS, never before published story.

I believe there are always good stories to tell. And, even if a concept has already been written about, no one can write about it like ME (or YOU for that matter)! With Paradigm VOID I will be doing my very best to explore new ideas and to hopefully reexamine old ones and find some new angle. No matter what, I can promise you that the Paradigm VOID series will always be fun, intriguing, thought provoking and entertaining!

I'm presently working on the series of short stories for the second book, but the complete first Paradigm VOID will be out some time this year! (It is presently going through a final edit and we are making decisions about a release date. We don't want it too close to And What of the CARGO?) But if you can't wait, the ten stories that make up the first Paradigm VOID are available RIGHT NOW on Amazon as part of the "Keepin' it a BUCK Series".

They are stories of the fantastic that ALL feature BLACK US and are only ONE DOLLAR each! So check those out and get your taste of what it feels like to step into the PARADIGM VOID!

If you're needing to get your THEORETICAL EBON FICTION (TEF) fix, THIS is the place to go!

PARADIGM VOID is a collection of short stories written by Iyapo Yapa, one of the new leaders in the field of Black Science Fiction and Speculative Fiction. Each story explores possibilities and concepts that were not long ago only within the domain of the standard Sci-Fi reader.

Now, with the insurgence of Black writers of TEF, Iyapo is adding his powerful voice to the chorus, and moving at full speed to work in our people taking control of our narrative!

In PARADIGM VOID, Iyapo explores things like:

- What if somewhere in the universe numerous alien races observed earth and concluded that there is a faction on the planet that in no way should ever be allowed to reach out beyond the bounds of its own atmosphere?
- What if the universe itself started taking measures to correct and bring balance to itself in terms of justice?
- What if time slowed down nearly to a stop ... but only for YOU?

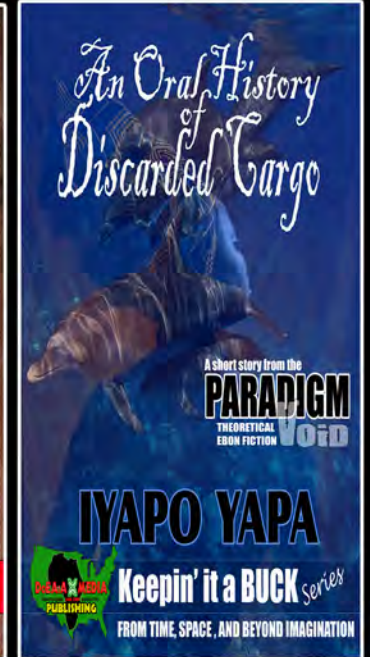
These possibilities and more are examined in "PARADIGM VOID" a collection of ten short stories in the genre of THEORETICAL EBON FICTION.



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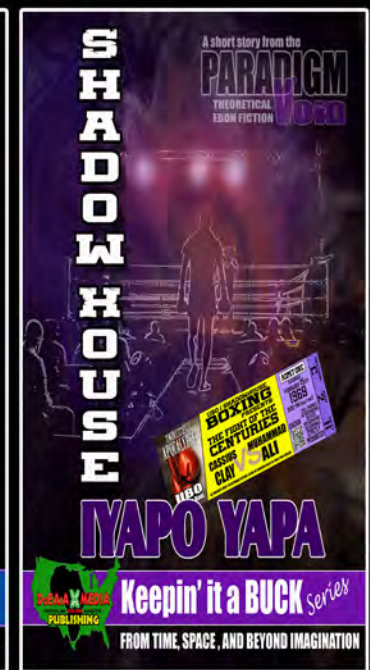
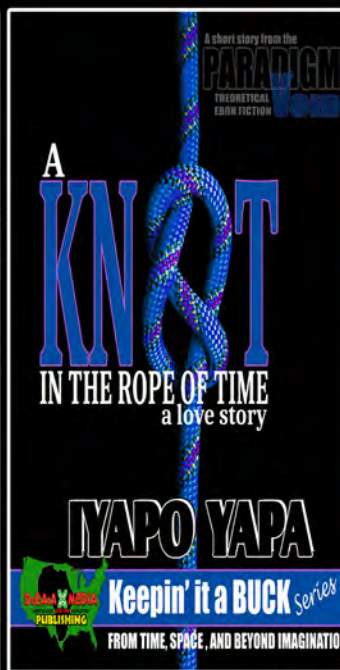


IT IS TIME TO JOURNEY INTO THE **PARADIGM Void** ONE STEP AT A TIME.

EACH SHORT STORY IS DIFFERENT. EACH ONE THOUGHT PROVOKING & MIND BENDING.
EACH ONE ONLY **A DOLLAR!** AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW ON: [amazon](https://www.amazon.com)



Keepin' it a BUCK series



Also remember:

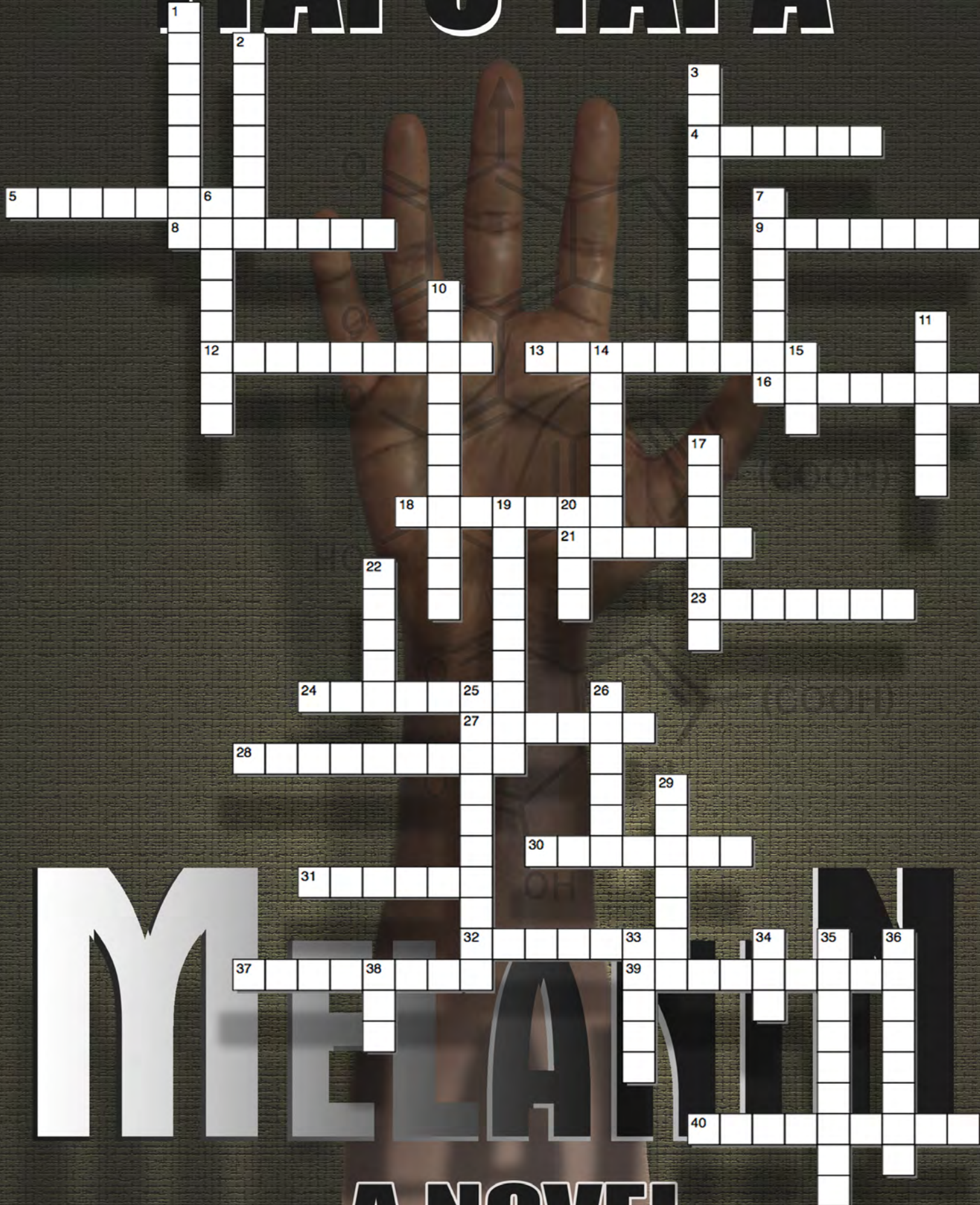
ORAL TRADITION talking books are also coming soon!
Click the image to the right to hear a sample, of one of our talking books. Yes, it's still in its rough form, but the story is still fun as all get out! So give it a listen!

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IYAPO YAPA



A NOVEL

ALRIGHT! Now that everyone has read *MELANIN: A Novel*, this month we-- WHAT?! You haven't read *MELANIN* yet?! Well you'll certainly need it if you expect to complete this month's crossword puzzle! You can purchase it for the Kindle or get a paper (soft or hardback) editions at amazon.com! For those who HAVE read it, the crossword questions are on the next page. Answer Key to last issue's word search is on the page after that, and as always, the answers to this month's puzzle will be in next month's edition of the READING and WRITING in the DARK Newsletter.

[CLICK ON THE IMAGE ABOVE TO DOWNLOAD A PRINTABLE COPY OF THE PUZZLE!](#)

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MARCH CROSSWORD QUESTIONS

Across

- Name of the radiation blocking material invented by Goodman/Band-Corp.
- Type of plane Edward flew back from Afrika in, _____ 307-L.
- According to tall tales, Harold Fontaine never passed through his mother's birth canal, instead, he was later found where?
- Name of the tall gaunt man who led the orientations.
- Something MELANIN: A Novel has 5 of that the typical novel has 1 or none of?
- The nickname Klass called Gayle Bandonson when she was a child.
- Practitioner who assisted people who had crossed over to become congruent. Dr. _____ Porter.
- Name of the man who invented the changeover procedure, David _____.
- Favorite song of Charles Bandonson _____ the Mask.
- The condition in which a person is no longer anchored to any time stream or dimension.
- First name of the inventor of the gateway used for dimensional travel _____ Prome.
- The world became more compassionate and balanced because of the decalcification of the _____ gland in those who had the procedure.
- _____/BandCorp
- The name Ryan had difficulty calling his wife after she 'crossed over'.
- Mandatory waiting period before one group could follow another through the gateway. _____ seconds.
- The name of the security and cloaking system designed by Desmond and Lhameha. Allan _____.
- Where did Desmond and Lhameha meet? _____ College of Engineering.
- The author of MELANIN: A Novel
- Name of the coin operated car Desmond rode at the mall. The _____.

Down

- Name originally given to the Saber-toothed Cat by Commander Adison.
- Melanin: A Novel was originally published on _____ 17, 2022..
- Name given to the procedure that made white people genetically/pheno-typically Black.
- Lhameha Fahtu's maiden name.
- The name of Desmond's adoptive father.
- Melanin type that gave no protection from the radiation.
- Undercover investigative reporter who was discovered and murdered. Ned _____.
- People who genetically had the right kind of melanin began producing Potassium Io- _____ to combat the radiation.
- _____ = Yes
- Lhameha holds advanced degrees in both mechanical engineering and _____ mechanics.
- Melanin type that gave protection from the radiation.
- The ancient name of the deity the Ar-ARayins worship.
- The name of Edward's sister.
- The discoverer of the deadly radiation called it "Mokushiroku" radiation, which translated means _____ radiation.
- Epithet used by racists in reference to Black people: _____ wing.
- _____ Institute of Engineering Arts in South Carolina.
- Number of chapters in MELANIN: A Novel. Twenty _____.
- The name of Desmond Fahtu's mother.
- Name of the man who recruited Edward into the project in Africa. Max _____.
- Name of the astrophysicist who discovered the deadly radiation Hiroshi _____.
- The name Ryan used for his wife after she 'crossed over'.

What are readers saying about MELANIN: A NOVEL?

"Melanin is an uncompromising and timely tale of speculative fiction, brimming with thought-provoking ideas and imaginative twists."

- Brandon Massey, award-winning author of *The Quiet Ones* and *Dark Corner*

"Iyapo Yapa has earned a place among the great science fiction writers with Melanin. The plot twists will keep you reading long after midnight. As well the imagery is captivating. Replicating the Black experience, you are drawn into the story as if you are there."

- T.J. Riley, author of *The Path to Brightness*

"The whole world needs to read this book!"

- M.A.D.M. Precious, author of *Michelle's Story* and *Loving Betrayal*

"Every Black person needs to read this book!"

- Gwen B

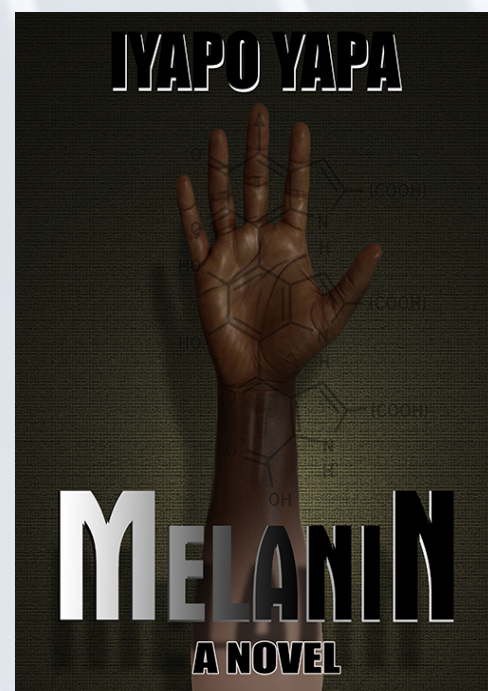
"It was exciting! I stayed up a few nights wanting to see what was coming!"

- Ayoka B.

AVAILABLE NOW!

MELANIN: A NOVEL

Buy it now by visiting one of the retailers below.



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BAD Programming

When installing software into a computer, not all the time, but many times, there will be an option to just allow the app to load and configure itself with the most common components and presets.

The other option is to use “custom settings” and go step by step to allow or dis-allow things.

It is my belief that most people either don't want to be bothered, or don't feel they have the knowledge or expertise to choose what goes in and what doesn't. In full disclosure, depending upon the software, I often go with the common components and presets... but if it is a software I know well, like the Adobe suite, I will do a step by step.

To me, reading is that way.

Have you actually ever stopped to look closely at the install screen of a computer? It shows component after component, key after key, file after file that is being loaded into your system, and they flash on your screen for a millisecond without you having any idea what-so-ever what it was, is, or the purpose of it within your system.

Globally, (Americans in particular), are being turned from reading and turned to listening to things or watching things. This watching, and using pictures is akin to the “components and common presets”. With common presets there is no real examination of what is going in, no deep examination of what one is listening to – and that is by design.

Nor do most people stop to think that deeply about it.

Listening to people or watching them has become that way.

There is a reason that:

“In most southern states, anyone caught teaching a slave to read would be fined, imprisoned, or whipped. The slaves themselves often suffered severe punishment for the crime of literacy, from savage beatings to the amputation of fingers and toes.” (Cornell University Library, In Their Own Words: Slave Narratives 2022)

For a time, the early church prohibited the reading of the Bible by the “unwashed masses”.

Why?

When one reads – it is almost impossible to ONLY read without simultaneously, on some level analyzing what is being read.

But we can listen to something – even while conducting other activities like cleaning house, or driving, and absorb what is being said without any kind of deep analysis what-so-ever.

We have all heard the jokes about how Black people don't like to read, and how a book is like Kryptonite to Black people. How, if you want to hide something from Black people, like money in your

house, hide it in a book and so on.

I'd hate with all my heart to believe that that's true.

But there again admittedly, I used to read every now and then. It is only recently that I began reading EVERY DAY and actually looking forward more to reading something, than watching or listening to something!

One of my goals, along with my Pro-Black agenda, is to do my part to help our people discover READING again, and by extension, to those of us who are so inclined ... WRITING!

And I am one who believes that in order to become a better writer one MUST be a READER also.

“This watching, and using pictures is akin to the “components and common presets”. With common presets there is no real examination of what is going in, no deep examination of what one is listening to – and that is by design.”

NOT for all the grammar B.S., the rules of which were created by colonizers and imperialists. But because there IS a way to tell an engaging story and a way NOT to, and in reading other works, we can discover (at least for ourselves), what we feel works for us and what doesn't and then at least ask ourselves if we do one thing or the other.

I find reading to be mind expanding and thought provoking, and now when I hear or see a lot of what is given to us, even when it seems like it's for our benefit, I can see the code as it quickly flashes on the screen, and the programming to which we are susceptible if we aren't paying close attention.

Reading helps to bypass much of that!

LET'S GET BACK TO READING!

Citation:

Cornell University Library. (n.d.). In Their Own Words: Slave Narratives. “I will be heard!” abolitionism in America. Retrieved June 10, 2022, from <https://rmc.library.cornell.edu/abolitionism/narratives.htm#:~:text=In%20most%20southern%20states%2C%20anyone,amputation%20of%20fingers%20and%20toes.>

This article is reprinted from my July 2022 blog entry. You can visit my blog at my website: <https://www.iyapoyapa.com> or by clicking on the icon below.

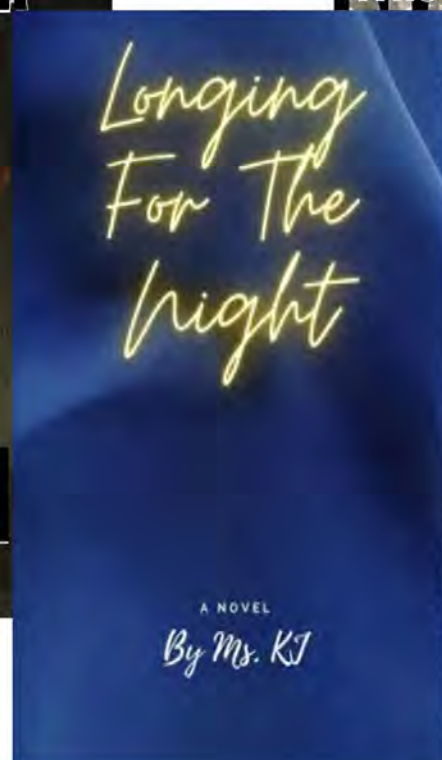
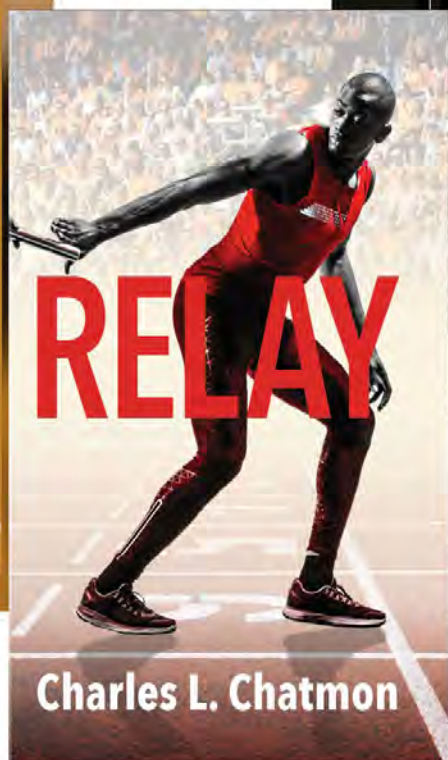
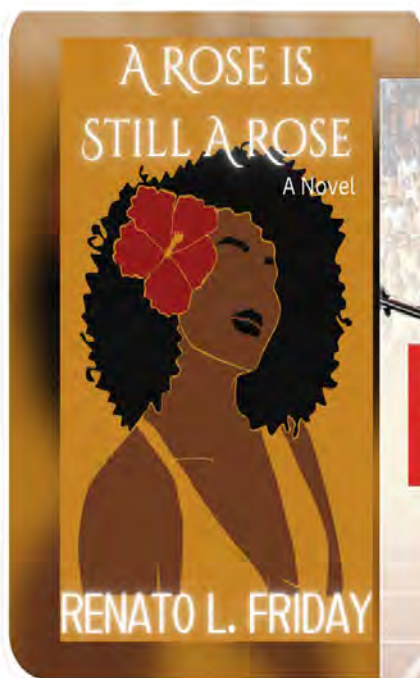
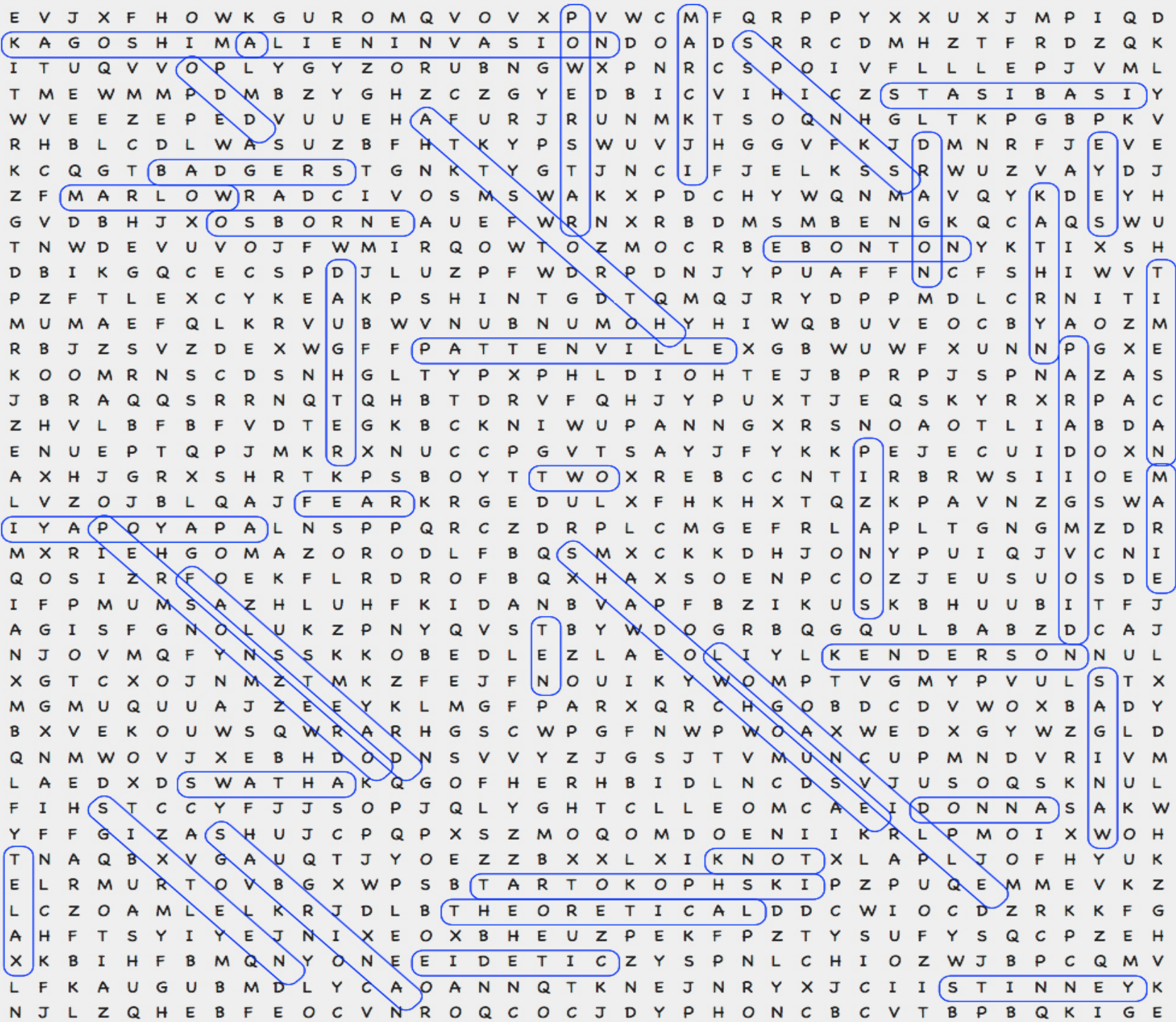


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HERE IS THE SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S WORD SEARCH PUZZLE!



AND CHECK OUT THE WORK OF THESE FANTASTIC AUTHORS!

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Black Writers
Retreat



& cultural Exploration

Take a "Kwanzaa Pause" in...

Caribbean COSTA RICA !!!

Tuesday, December 26, 2023 ~ Monday, January 1, 2020

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QUESTIONS?

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or

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CLICK ANYWHERE ON THE IMAGE ABOVE TO GO TO THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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I MARRIED A WRITER!

I'm married to a writer and it is FANTASTIC!

We wake up in the morning and may talk about what I'm working on and/or what she's working on. We bounce ideas back and forth while cooking or cleaning or chilling. We encourage and challenge each other as we are creating at our respective computers. We edit each other's work while eating. We walk along the beach hand in hand and discuss various aspects of the craft. We chat and chew and stew about the writer's blocks we come up against. We lay in bed and discuss first, second and third acts and how not to let a story fall apart in that, oh so important, final act.

In short, as I said at the very beginning, it is FANTASTIC!

And, building on what we have, we started a writers group and great things have come from it.

At first I was the one who primarily had done the majority of writing. When we started it I had just completed my first novel, MELANIN. I was starting on And What of the CARGO? (A book that I sat in the kitchen and spoke to Angela about as I was forming in my mind, before I had put down word one of the story.) I was also well on the way to completing the short story collection in the Theoretical Ebon Fiction genre, Paradigm VOID. (Which I published as individual short stories and is available on Amazon under the "Keepin It A Buck" series.)

Now, a little more than a year later, there was a LOT of writing going on! The core members of the group are all progressing along. One member is exploring new genre and her drafting first novel. Another is writing on her memoirs and working on a calendar. Another of us a non-fiction series available on Amazon Kindle. A couple of us are earning royalties from our work and three of us are PAID published

(and publishing) Kindle Vella (episodic stories) authors!

[No, we haven't yet been paid a stack of money that we could have jumped off the top of it and break a leg, but it was enough to go out and have a nice celebration dinner. The point was, we were writing and making money from it! Please don't get me wrong, none of us in the group write with the goal of becoming rich and famous. (Though for me, if the rich part comes I definitely would NOT turn it down.) We are writing for the love of writing and for the love of Black people for free... Getting a little something in a pay envelope is a very nice little bit of icing on the top of the cake.]

Writing is a solitary act, something I've said and heard said many times. It does help when I'm struggling through a book or a story to have someone there to cheer me on and to tell me to keep going. It is nice to get the reminders that as long as I keep pushing, I'll push through. I receive that encouragement from friends and family as well as the writers group.



At the top of it all is my wife who is my BIGGEST cheerleader! And I'm SO grateful she's there for me, and that she is a writer also, because she understands the trials and tribulations of those of us who sit around putting little black letters onto big white screens.

Angela's published work: * Affirming Self Love Series: Self-LOVE Meditations, Reflections, & AFFIRMATIONS is a series of graphic non-fiction digital books on currently up to book/episode three. She also has THREE series on Kindle Vella: * I DeClaire Love, * 365 Dates and * The Love X TamuTamu Agency! You can find the links at the end of the news letter! Be sure to check out her excellent Black love (fiction and non-fiction) series; you'll be glad you did!

Could YOU survive?!

Five years ago, a cataclysm now known as THE COLLAPSE occurred. Dimensions merged with horrific results. It is now common to see creatures of myth, legend, and nightmare along with once long extinct animals populating the landscape. Carl, LaTanya and Lester, embark on a quest to find a lost book that can't change the madness of the new normal but may assist them and others in the now nearly impossible task of: SURVIVING the WORST! Enter a world of action, adventure, science and horror on Kindle vella!

Click on the Kindle vella link below!



Be sure to take some time to visit my website at:

<https://www.iyapoyapa.com> - or just click the image to the right!

There are a LOT of things to see and interact with! There are also a couple special surprises hidden in the site. They aren't marked, but if you take a little time to search for them, you'll defiantly be pleasantly surprised!



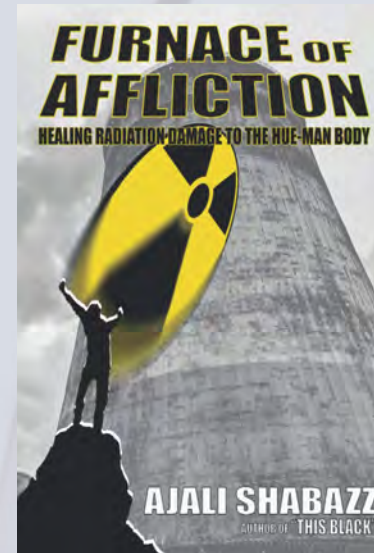
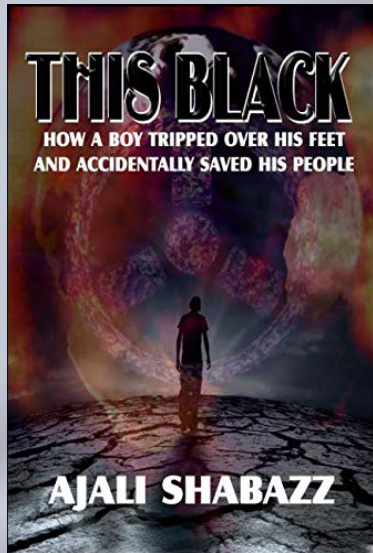
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Books by:

AJALI SHABAZZ



Author of: *This Black* - *This Black NATION* and *Furnace of Affliction!*

The Reading and Writing in the DARK Podcast Interview!

You don't want to miss this discussion with this new POWERFUL voice in PRO BLACK FICTION in the genre of Theoretical Ebon Fiction, and Non Fiction!

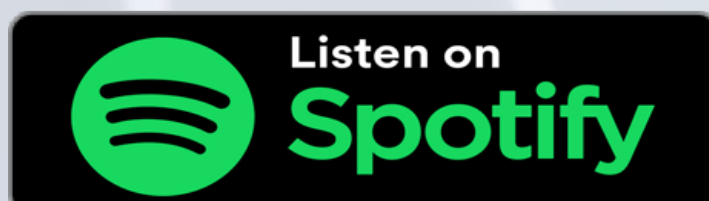
Listen to the interview on  by clicking the link below:

<https://www.spreaker.com/show/a-conversation-with-author-ajali-shabazz>



Did you know there is also a READING and WRITING in the DARK PODCAST?! Well there IS and you can tune in to it and listen just by clicking the block to the right.

You can also hear the READING and WRITING in the DARK podcast on:



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podcast!

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Alright, enough about ME!

Below are AWESOME stories on the KINDLE VELLA platform by some authors I know!

Just click the cover art to be transported to their stories!

And remember, the first THREE episodes are FREE to read!



I DeClaire Love

Angela Riley

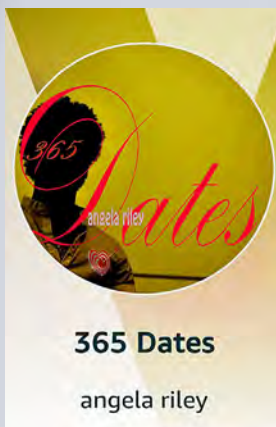
DeClaire and Tyrone meet and sparks fly. They fall in love with each other quick, fast, and in a hurry. It seems too good to be true. But is it? Is it safe to love? Are there any “good” rules when it comes to love? Do we have to fight for love? Are there always games being played when it comes to love? Is simple, sane, “old-fashioned” love out of style? CAN LOVE SET US FREE? *** New Episodes Weekly!



The Love X TamuTamu Agency

Angela Riley

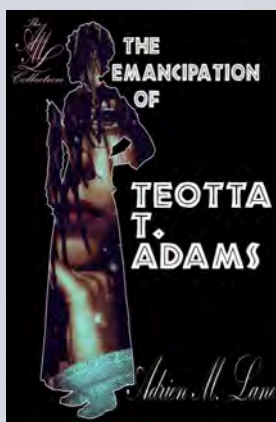
Love is natural but it ain't always easy. And Mama Tamu should know! She is a 91 year old match maker who has run “The Love X TamuTamu Agency” for FIFTY years. She has personally experienced and been a witness to all kinds of love. And, as she says, “Love is more than a notion!” Follow along as she stands up for and works to support and encourage the natural flow of Black Love.



365 Dates

Angela Riley

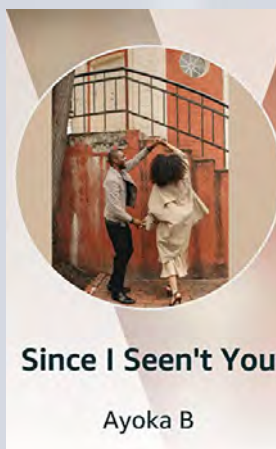
Single again, after my first divorce, one day I had a new thought: I WANT TO DATE. And... NOTHING. No one came knocking on my door to woo me. No one approached me when I was out wanting to court me. Nobody asked friends/family to be set up with me. Just crickets! So, thinking that maybe my goal was to vague--I want to date.--to make anything happen, I decided to pursue a HUGE goal of going on 365 dates. Not 3, 5, or 6 dates but three HUNDRED and SIXTY-FIVE dates. So...LET'S GO!



The Emancipation of Teotta T. Adams

Adrien M. Lane

Teotta T. Adams has it all, big house, nice car, fine clothes, and a private chef, one of the best in the world, and a successful husband. Yes, Teotta has everything. Everything except her FREEDOM! She spends her days in the lap of luxury, but inside she knows something's wrong. Her 'husband' is just this side of a stranger, and worse, Teotta knows even less about herself. When she finally discovers why, and the incredible truth behind it, she will long for the bliss of her lost ignorance.



Since I Seen't You

Ayoka B.

She and David met when they were 18. After a rough start, they build a friendship that would span decades: marriages, children, love and heartache. When they lose touch, she thought that she would never see him again, but she was wrong. Can men and women truly be just friends? Can their friendship withstand what life has in store?



The Match

Ayoka B.

Have you ever changed someone's life? I mean in a life and death sort of way. I opened a letter that I almost threw out, thinking it was junk mail; it said that I was a possible bone marrow match for someone! I couldn't even remember being tested. The letter asked me to contact them if I was still a willing donor... what would you do?

ALSO AVAILABLE on AMAZON and OTHER PLATFORMS!
Below are stories and books by some authors I know!
Just click the cover art to purchase their book.



Affirming Self Love (Graphic Non-Fiction SERIES)

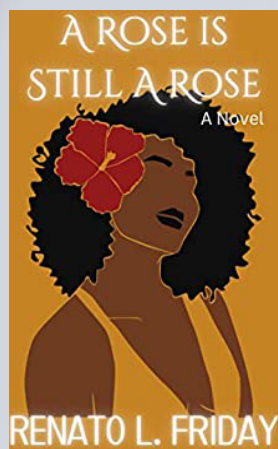
angela riley

SelfLOVE Meditation, Reflections, & AFFIRMATIONS Series...

Episode 1: *Following The Happy*

Episode 2: *Being Wanted*

Episode 3: *GOoD Lawd!*



A Rose is Still a Rose

Renato L. Friday

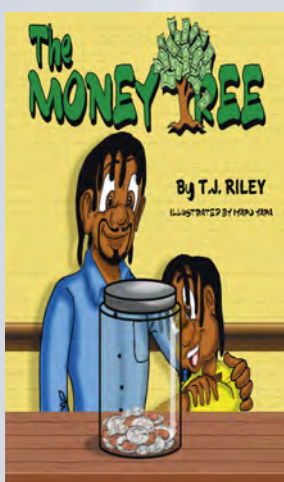
Rose thought life was going great: she was engaged, had a beautiful set of twin girls, a recent trade school graduate, and a new job right around the corner. Unfortunately, her fiancé, David, turned out to not be what she needed, and she chose to break things off. In the midst of her failing relationship, she met a man named Falcon, who ironically turns out to be her new boss. They quickly go from acquaintances to lovers, which opens up a fire pit of drama. Then comes Landon, a self-made millionaire, who is very humble about his accomplishments. He shows her all the things she was lacking while with David, and ultimately proposes. Naturally, Rose is scared to fall for Landon and accept his proposal due to David's lies and Falcon's toxic choices, but she takes a chance and allows Landon to love her the way she needs. Will her love for him forsake the feelings she's still harboring for Falcon, or will she give into temptation?



Longing for the Night

Ms. KJ

Inspired by the poem Goblin Market by Christina Rossetti, two young sisters face the trials and tribulations of the hood in this coming-of-age story about the harshness of living in South Central Los Angeles.



The Money Tree

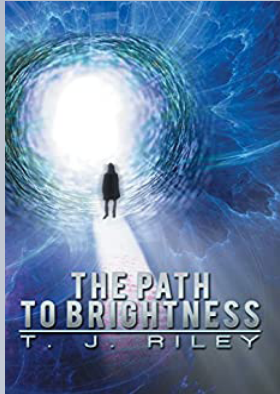
T.J. Riley / Illustrated by Iyapo Yapa

Every child wants money to buy something, right? Our hero does too. But, his father has a surprise, a Money Tree. Join the fun journey to find out how to grow your own money tree.

READING and WRITING in the

DARK

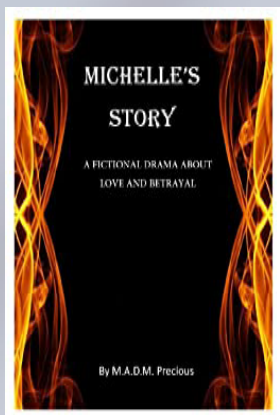
A space for avid Black readers and Black authors



THE PATH to BRIGHTNESS

T.J. Riley

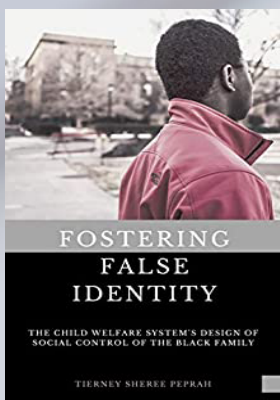
Fatima, a young woman, has a near-death experience. When she awakes from a coma and recovers, she has mystical powers. She begins to see auras and experiences life with her new abilities. For the clever character, Fatima, life is about to dramatically change. Follow Fatima's journey as she tries to convince others of the astounding esoteric knowledge she has brought back from beyond the veil. However, there are some that wish to stop her from sharing an ancient secret. A secret that will change life on earth, forever.



MICHELLE'S STORY

M.A.D.M. Precious

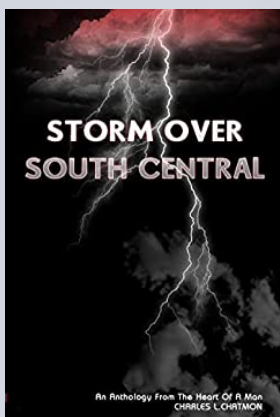
When Michelle met Michael, she thought that she found the love of her life. She was young and coming out of a bad marriage. A single parent of two children, she was scared, broke and had no self esteem. Michael seemed perfect, except for one little problem...



Fostering False Identity: The Child Welfare System's Design of Social Control of the Black Family

Tierney Peprah

THE ORGANISM OF RACISM IN THE UNITED STATES CRAFTS VARIOUS SYSTEMS MEANT TO ACHIEVE ONE OVERARCHING PURPOSE, that is to ensure that peoples and groups designated for an inferior existence pose little to no threat to the social structure of wealth and privilege that is propped up on their backs. These systems are allowed to exist, oftentimes unchallenged, by propagating dishonest descriptions of why these systems exist. Many people are without the proper means to challenge these systems, camouflaged as being charitable or in the public interest, for their unjust outcomes. In *Fostering False Identity*, the American child welfare system is explored as such a system. While the child welfare system is portrayed as a moral arbitrator in the abuse and neglect of children, in actuality this system was formulated for the specific purpose of regulating disenfranchised populations by removing children from those communities to assimilate them into White society. Thus assimilated, they are believed to pose minimal threat to the social order. *Fostering False Identity* will explore this phenomenon through a lens of Black liberation and self-determination of African families who are consistently victimized by this system.



Storm Over South Central

Charles L. Chatmon

The Storm has been unleashed, which means it's time to share what's inside the much anticipated anthology by author Charles L. Chatmon.

Chatmon, a refreshing voice in the world of modern poetry and author of *The Depths of My Soul & The Voices of South Central* returns with engaging short stories and thought provoking poems.

Read *Storm over South Central* and discover the thoughts he writes about in this volume filled with verses and tales of despair, stories of hope. It will also reveal a lot about American society – its strengths, its flaws and its people. This is a literary journey you will enjoy taking.

And there will be more authors to come, who are working to

TAKE CONTROL OF OUR NARRATIVE!

THANK YOU for subscribing to the newsletter, I genuinely appreciate it! Be sure and spread the word about my work by telling others about my website, books, podcasts and such at: <https://www.iyapoyapa.com>

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WAPDO WAPDA

Tales of the
MONKEY'S PAW



NOT EVERY WISH GRANTED MAKES DREAMS COME TRUE

IN 2023
BE CAREFUL WHAT
YOU WISH FOR!



Keepin' it a BUCK *series*

SHORT STORIES of HORROR and SUSPENSE